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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

72-HOUR REPORT

18 DECEMBER 2017

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Sacramento – Report Suggests 19 Million California Voter Records Hacked, Held in Bitcoin Ransom

(U) Personal information of at least 19 million California registered voters ended up in the hands of hackers who apparently held it for ransom payable in Bitcoin earlier this year, researchers at a German digital security firm reported on 15 December. It remained unclear whether someone paid the ransom and whether hackers deleted the data, but researchers at the Kromtech Security Center said the Secretary of State of California “was aware of the leak” and that it was “looking into it.” Cyber criminals appeared to have accessed the data of 19,264,123 California registered voters. The type of information stolen included each person’s full name, home address, emails, phone number, gender, date of birth and precinct information. The data did not appear to include social security numbers.

SOURCE: 15 December 2017, [The San Diego Union-Tribune](#)

(U) San Francisco – Twitter Starts Enforcing New Rules to Combat Hateful and Abusive Content

(U) Twitter will start enforcing new rules aimed at combating hateful and abusive content today. The move highlights how Twitter and other social media companies are ramping up their efforts to police offensive content on their sites. Some of the changes include permanently suspending accounts affiliated with groups that use violence to advance their cause. To figure out if an account has ties to these groups, Twitter said it will look at users’ behavior, such as whether they’re funding a violent extremist group, promoting their acts or recruiting for them.

SOURCE: 18 December 2017, [The Mercury News](#)

(U) San Francisco – Annual SF Gun Buyback Takes 280 Firearms Off City Streets

(U) San Francisco police were handed a few unexpected firearms during a Saturday gun buyback: An AT-4 anti-tank weapon, a rocket launcher, and a cannonball. The weapons were turned over to officials during a “no questions asked” gun buyback event in San Francisco. Police said that was one of 280 firearms turned over during the gun buyback, which was hosted along with United Playaz, a San Francisco-based violence prevention and youth development organization.

SOURCE: 16 December 2017, [NBC Bay Area](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Florida – 220 Cases of Stomach Virus Reported Aboard Cruise Ship

(U) Port Everglades – Cruise line officials have reported there were more than 200 cases of a stomach virus on board a Royal Caribbean ship that returned back to South Florida, on 16 December. Royal Caribbean said 220 cases of the gastrointestinal illness were reported aboard the Independence of the Seas since it departed from Port Everglades. Those affected by the illness were treated promptly by the ship’s doctors with over-the-counter medication, according to Royal Caribbean. The ship’s staff also took extra measures to minimize the risk of any other passengers getting sick.

SOURCE: 16 December 2017, [7 News Miami](#)

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UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**(U) Virginia – White Nationalist Charged with First-Degree Murder in Car Killing**

(U) Charlottesville – A white nationalist accused of killing a 32-year old woman when he plowed his car into a crowd of counter protesters in Charlottesville, Virginia, in August, was charged with first-degree murder on 14 December. James Fields Jr., 20, appeared at Charlottesville District Court for a preliminary hearing, during which a previous charge of second degree murder was changed to first degree murder. Fields would face up to life in prison if convicted of first degree murder, while second degree murder carries a penalty of five to 40 years in prison, according to the Virginia penal code. Fields is suspected of killing Heather Heyer and injuring 19 people.

SOURCE: 14 December 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL**(U) Afghanistan – ISIS Claims Attack on Spy Agency Center**

(U) Kabul – Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) claimed responsibility for an attack near a training facility of Afghanistan's main intelligence agency in the capital, Kabul today as gunmen exchanged fire with security forces. Details of the attack remained unclear after a group of armed men seized a building under construction in a heavily populated area of the city. "The number of attackers, possible casualties and their target is not yet clear," said Najib Danish, spokesman for the Ministry of Interior. The Afshar area of Kabul where the attack was under way is close to a training facility of the National Directorate of Security, the main Afghan intelligence agency, as well as a private university. Another government official said the attack was near the intelligence agency training center.

SOURCE: 18 December 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) Australia – Authorities Charge Sydney Man Over North Korea Weapons Brokering

(U) Sydney – A Korean-born man living in Sydney has been accused of brokering sales and discussing the supply of weapons of mass destruction on behalf of North Korea. Chan Han Choi, the first person to be charged under the Weapons of Mass Destruction Act, has been formally refused bail by an Australian Court. He faces six charges relating to provision of services for weapons of mass destruction in North Korea after being arrested at his home on Saturday night. The man, who is of South Korean descent, has been living in Australia for the past 30 years and authorities allege he was involved in brokering the sale of missiles and missile componentry and expertise from North Korea and other international entities.

SOURCE: 17 December 2017, [The Daily Telegraph](#)

(U) Gabon – Two Danish Journalists Wounded in Knife Attack

(U) Libreville – An attacker wielding a knife and crying "Allahu Akbar" wounded two Danish journalists in Gabon's capital Libreville. The two reporters for the National Geographic channel were in a popular market for tourist souvenirs on Saturday, when a Nigerien national living in Gabon lunged at them with the knife. After his arrest, the 53-year-old suspect told authorities he was carrying out a revenge attack against America for recognizing Israel's capital as Jerusalem.

SOURCE: 17 December 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) Germany – Police Report Small Explosion in Subway, No Injuries

(U) Hamburg – German police say they're investigating the explosion of an "apparent pyrotechnical device" in a subway station in the northern port city of Hamburg. Hamburg police said on Twitter there was a "small detonation" on the platform of the Veddel subway station early yesterday evening. They say a pane of glass was damaged, but no injuries were reported. Police say they have information about a suspect and the investigation is continuing. Hamburg police are quoted as saying that the bag likely contained firecrackers and that there was no indication of terrorism.

SOURCE: 17 December 2017, [ABC News](#)

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UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**(U) Nigeria – Troops Arrest More Than 400 Boko Haram Fighters, Families**

(U) Maiduguri – Military authorities say Nigerian soldiers arrested more than 400 people associated with the Boko Haram extremist group hiding on the islands of Lake Chad, including fighters, wives and children. The two-week operation netted the largest number of arrests of Boko Haram fighters in recent months in northeast Nigeria. The military said many Boko Haram insurgents were killed, but it did not give details. Among those arrested were 167 Boko Haram fighters, 67 women and 173 children. The women and children will be handed over to authorities of displacement camps after investigations, the military said. Another 57 insurgents were arrested during a separate operation in another part of the troubled region.

SOURCE: 16 December 2017, [Associated Press](#)

(U) South Korea – North Korean Hackers Behind Attacks on Cryptocurrency Exchanges

(U) Seoul – South Korea's spy agency said North Korean hackers were behind attacks on cryptocurrency exchanges this year in which some \$7 million worth of cryptocurrencies were stolen. The cyber attacks attributed to North Korean hackers also included the leaking of personal information from 36,000 accounts from the world's busiest cryptocurrency exchange Bitthumb in June. The \$7 million of stolen cryptocurrencies are now worth about \$82.7 million. North Korean hackers have also demanded \$5.5 million from Bitthumb in return for deleting the leaked personal information.

SOURCE: 16 December 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) Russia – Kremlin Says US Tip-Off about Planned Attack 'Saved Many Lives'

(U) St Petersburg – A US tip-off about a planned attack in St Petersburg helped save many lives and Russia and the United States should try to cooperate in the same way in future, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said today. Washington provided intelligence to Russia that helped thwart a potentially deadly bombing, US and Russian officials said yesterday, in a rare public show of cooperation despite deep strains between the two countries. The tip-off resulted in the detention of seven alleged supporters of ISIS in St Petersburg last week. Russia's Federal Security Service said on Friday that ISIS had planned attacks in public places on 16 December and weapons and explosives were found when the suspects were searched.

SOURCE: 18 December 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER**(U) Texas – 44 Immigrants Found Inside Two Refrigerated Trailers**

(U) Falfurrias – More than 40 immigrants smuggled inside two refrigerated truck trailers have been detained after the rigs were searched at a South Texas checkpoint. A US Customs and Border Protection statement says 19 immigrants were located on 15 December at the Falfurrias checkpoint. Border Patrol agents, hours later at the same site, searched another trailer and found 25 more immigrants. Both drivers were arrested and investigators are trying to determine if the smuggling attempts are related.

SOURCE: 17 December 2017, [KVIA](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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